

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL ESTIMATES BOARD

13 August 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Allan Evans, OIR
Colonel B. B. Talley, G-2
Captain Ray Halpass, ONI
Colonel Edward H. Porter, AFOIII
Captain R. G. McCool, JIG

SUBJECT : NIE-42: The Current Situation in Albania,
with Particular Reference to Greek, Yugoslav
and Italian Interests and Pretensions

1. Suggested terms of reference for subject estimate are
enclosed for your consideration.

2. It is requested that your representative be prepared
to meet in Room 146 South Building at 10:00 Friday, 17 August
to discuss these terms, at which time production responsibilities
will also be allocated.

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Executive Secretary

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

13 August 1951

SUBJECT: NIE-42: THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ALBANIA, WITH
PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO GREEK, YUGOSLAV AND
ITALIAN INTERESTS AND PRETENSIONS
(For consideration by the IAC representatives)

THE PROBLEM

To examine the current Albanian situation, to analyze the character and extent of Greek, Italian and Yugoslav interests and aspirations in Albania, and to estimate the degree to which these interests conflict, and to assess the significance of conflicting interests as obstacles to the effective defense of Southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean.

SCOPE

This project should examine the stability of the Hoxha regime in Albania, the strength of its ties with the Soviet Union, and the nature and extent of resistance activities within Albania. The possible sponsorship of such activity by Yugoslavia, Italy and Greece should be examined and the degree to which the interests

of these three countries conflict should be evaluated. The significance of such conflicting interests as obstacles to the creation of an effective defense of Southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean should be assessed A) on the assumption that the Hoxha regime remains in power, and B) on the assumption that the Hoxha regime is overthrown.

QUESTIONS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

I. WHAT IS THE CURRENT INTERNAL SITUATION IN ALBANIA?

A. Is the Hoxha regime firmly established politically?

1. Are there any significant divisions among the top leadership?
2. Are the police and armed forces under firm political control?

B. To what extent does the regime's existence depend on Soviet support?

1. What Soviet support and direction is necessary and how much is being provided?
2. What military or political agreements exist between Albania and the USSR or the other satellites?

C. What resistance to the regime exists and how effective is it?

1. What specific resistance groups exist and what are their methods of operation?
2. Is there cooperation between resistance groups?
3. What are the political goals of various resistance groups?
4. What is the relationship between resistance groups in Albania and emigre movements in Italy, Greece or Yugoslavia and what is the extent of support provided by those three governments?

II. DO THE INTERESTS OF YUGOSLAVIA, GREECE AND ITALY IN ALBANIA CONFLICT AND, IF SO, TO WHAT EXTENT?

- A. What is the historical background of the interests of these three countries in Albania?
- B. What kind of a solution to the Albanian problem would each of these countries desire?
- C. What measures are these three countries now taking in pursuit of their interests, either through Albanian emigre groups or otherwise?
- D. To what extent would each of these three countries compromise in the interests of obtaining a mutually agreed solution?
- E. Are there clearly defined conflicts of interest between the three countries under present conditions?

1. What effect do such conflicts have on relations between the three countries?
2. Are such conflicts of interest or mutual suspicion obstacles to effective political and military cooperation among the three countries?

III. ASSUMING THAT THE Hoxha regime retains power in Albania, are conflicting interests of Italy, Yugoslavia and Greece in Albania obstacles to the development of effective defense of Southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean?

- A. What is the degree and nature of cooperation between Italy, Yugoslavia and Greece desirable for effective defense of this area?
- B. What steps, if any, are currently being taken to coordinate the defense plans of these countries?
- C. What effect does Albania in hostile hands have on the defensive plans of each country?
- D. To what extent do the interests and pretensions of the three countries in Albania influence their military planning and to what extent does this complicate the development of a coordinated defense?

IV. ASSUMING THAT THE HOXHA REGIME IS OVERTHROWN, WHAT EFFECT WILL POSSIBLE CONFLICTING INTERESTS OF ITALY, YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE HAVE ON THE SECURITY OF THAT AREA?

- A. In the event of the overthrow of the Hoxha regime, under such circumstances that USSR and the satellites find it impractical to intervene openly, how actively would each of the three countries attempt to influence the nature of the regime to follow?
 - 1. Would such activity be likely to result in open hostilities among any of the three countries?
 - 2. Given present trends, what would be the nature of the most probable successor regime?
- B. What changes in the relations of the three countries would be caused by the replacement of the Hoxha regime?
 - 1. What changes in the military plans of each country would be necessitated by such an event?
 - 2. Would such changes facilitate or obstruct the development of military and political cooperation among the three countries?
- C. What would be the effect of a change in the Albanian regime on the prospects for the development of an effective coordinated defense of Southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean?